In The Abstract:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

-- ~~The present invention provides an~~ <u>An</u> encoding method for skipped macroblocks in a video image ~~comprising~~ <u>comprises</u> the steps of: adding one indication bit into a picture header for indicating a coding mode for skipped macroblocks in a current image; selecting the coding mode for a macroblock type in the current image according to the number of skipped macroblocks, if it is a run_length coding, then setting the indication bit of the picture header as a status indicating a run_length coding, and encoding the macroblock type in the image by the run_length coding mode; if it is a joint coding of the number of skipped macroblocks and the macroblock type, then setting the indication bit of the picture header as status indicating a joint coding and encoding the macroblock type in the image by the joint coding mode of the number of skipped macroblocks and the macroblock type; finally, encoding other data in the current macroblock and writing data into a code stream.. The present invention selects the coding mode for skipped macroblocks in video image adaptively, which improves the image encoding efficiency, reduces the cost for transmission and storage, therefore it is a simple and practical technical solution. The present invention can be used validly in both frame encoding and field encoding. --